

521

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/707,036	VEHMAS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric Hug	1731	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on January 20, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7 and 16-19.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 12 February 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Julian Cohen on March 11, 2004.

The claims have been amended as follows:

18. (Amended) A method according to claim 17, wherein said layer of glass rests on and is conveyed by said conveyor rollers through the tempering ~~surfaces~~ furnace.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-7 and 16-19 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-7 and 16 are allowed, because the prior art does not disclose or suggest a method of heating glass that is supported and conveyed on rollers, the heating taking place from above and below in a tempering furnace, whereby heated air blown onto the upper surface of the glass is obtained by sucking the air from inside the furnace, pressurizing the air outside the furnace, then recirculating the air back into the furnace and blowing the air perpendicularly onto the upper glass surface.

Claims 17-19 are allowed primarily for the feature of using separate compressors for air blown onto the upper and lower surfaces of the glass, each compressor developing respective

Art Unit: 1731

pressures and blowing air independently. This was indicated as being allowable subject matter in the previous office action.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed January 20, 2004, with respect to the amended claims and the rejections based on McKelvey (US 3,298,810), have been fully considered and are persuasive. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-4 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKelvey in view of Starr (US 4,059,426) has been withdrawn, and the rejection of claims 5-7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McKelvey in view of Starr and LeTemps et al (US 4,773,926) has been withdrawn.

With regards to prior art glass furnaces configured for conveying the glass on rollers, the prior art teaches using forced convective air directed perpendicularly to the upper surface of the glass, whereby such air is obtained outside of the furnace. Spent air within the furnace is either exhausted, recycled internally, or used in a heat exchanger to pre-heat incoming air. These teachings are not suggestive of the claimed methods.

Election/Restrictions

This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 8-15 drawn to an invention non-elected without traverse. Accordingly, claims 8-15 have been cancelled.

Art Unit: 1731

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Friedel et al (US 5,951,734) discloses a means for selective convective heating on the upper surface of a glass sheet.

Vehmas et al (US 5,057,138) discloses a roller conveyor furnace for sheet glass comprising means for forced convection on top and bottom surfaces of the glass.

McMaster (US 4,738,705) discloses a method of forced convection heating of glass sheets in a roller conveyor furnace having independent control means for top and bottom surfaces of the glass.

McMaster et al (US 3,907,132) discloses a heating furnace for sheet glass having means for internally mixing and heating ambient air with spent air.

Kaufman et al (US 3,844,757) discloses a vertical sheet glass furnace whereby exhaust air is reheated outside the furnace and recirculated back to the furnace. The recycled air flows from top to bottom along the length of the glass.

Cone (US 2,089,250) discloses a glass furnace having means to withdraw air from the top of the furnace and recirculate the air to a heating chamber within the furnace.

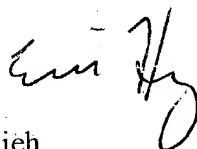
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 1731

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 571 272-1192. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 571 272-1189. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


jeh



PETER CHIN
PRIMARY EXAMINER